

Message Text

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ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-25 NEA-14 ISO-00 IO-14 CIAE-00

DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04

RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20 USIA-15 ACDA-19 SAM-01

SAB-01 SR-02 ORM-03 SCI-06 FEA-02 AEC-11 AECE-00

INT-08 OMB-01 EB-11 COME-00 TRSE-00 AID-20 AGR-20

SCCT-02 DRC-01 /260 W

----- 062196

P R 271010Z JUN 74

FM AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7317

INFO AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI

USINT ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY ANKARA

AMEMBASSY BAMAKO

AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY BANJUL

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

AMEMBASSY CONAKRY

AMEMBASSY DACCA

AMEMBASSY DAKAR

AMEMBASSY FREETOWN

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY KABUL

AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY LAGOS

AMEMBASSY LIBREVILLE

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AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MADRID
AMEMBASSY MANAMA
AMEMBASSY MANILA
AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO
AMEMBASSY MUSCAT
AMEMBASSY NDJAMENA
AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI
USUN NEW YORK 493
AMEMBASSY NIAMEY
AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT
AMEMBASSY OUAGADOUGOU
AMEMBASSY PARIS
USLO PEKING
AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH
AMEMBASSY RABAT
AMEMBASSY SANAA
AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
AMEMBASSY TOKYO
AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI
AMEMBASSY TUNIS
AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON
AMEMBASSY YAOUNDE
CINCPAC

C O N F I D E N T I A L KUALA LUMPUR 3050

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, EGEN, MY, XD, XF, XI, XL

SUBJ: ISLAMIC FOREIGN MINISTERS' CONFERENCE WRAP-UP

REF: KUALA LUMPUR 3019, 6/26/74

1. SUMMARY: CONFERENCE ON WHOLE WAS NOT NOTEWORTHY FOR ITS
ACHIEVEMENTS. ILLUSION OF SOLIDARITY ENGENDERED AT LAHORE
SUMMIT WAS TO SOME EXTENT MAINTAINED, BUT THERE WAS GENERAL
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LACK OF DETERMINATION ON PART OF DELEGATES AS WHOLE TO
TACKLE DETAILS OF IMPLEMENTATION OF PROGRAMS, ESPECIALLY IN
ECONOMIC FIELD. USUAL SPLITS PREVAILED: ROYAL ARAB STATES
VERSUS SOCIALIST AND RADICAL NATIONS; ASIANS VERSUS AFRICANS;
POOR VERSUS RICH, ETC., WHICH ARE CERTAINLY NOT NEW PHENOMENA
IN WORLD OF MUSLIM DIPLOMACY (OR NON-MUSLIM DIPLOMACY, FOR
THAT MATTER). CONSIDERING RESULTS OF CONFERENCE AS SUMMED UP
IN RESOLUTIONS AND COMMUNIQUE (REFTEL), CONFERENCE'S MAIN

"ACHIEVEMENT" -- NO MATTER HOW IT MAY BE VIEWED -- WAS RESOLUTION ON SOUTHERN PHILIPPINES. ALSO, THERE MAY BE SOME SIGNIFICANCE IN COMMITMENT OF MUSLIM NATIONS TO WORK IN UN FOR ECONOMIC SANCTIONS AGAINST ISRAEL PER RESOLUTION ON MIDDLE EAST AND PALESTINE, IMPLICATIONS OF WHICH WE CANNOT FULLY EVALUATE FROM OUR K.L. VANTAGE POINT. END SUMMARY.

2. WORK OF CONFERENCE: AS NOTED IN INITIAL EMBASSY COMMENTS REFTEL, LITTLE OF SUBSTANCE WAS ACHIEVED BY FONMINS DURING THEIR FIVE-DAY SESSION, NOTABLE LAPSE HAVING BEEN IN ECONOMIC AREA WHERE SEVERAL NATIONS, ESPECIALLY PAKISTAN AND MALAYSIA, PRESSED HARD FOR CLOSER ECONOMIC AND TECHNICAL COOPERATION AND "ECONOMIC ADJUSTMENT FUND." MANY PETTY AND PAROCHIAL INTERESTS AS USUAL CAME TO THE FORE, BUT A NUMBER OF THESE, INCLUDING TURKISH INITIATIVE ON CYPRUS, SOUTH YEMEN AND OTHER ARABIAN PENINSULAR QUARRELS, WERE NOT RECOGNIZED EITHER IN RESOLUTIONS OR COMMUNIQUE. NEVERTHELESS, POLITICAL RESOLUTIONS ENCOMPASSED WIDE RANGE OF ISSUES, BUT FORMULATIONS WERE LARGELY RHETORICAL AND UNLIKELY TO HAVE SUBSTANTIAL EFFECT ON, FOR EXAMPLE, MIDDLE EAST SETTLEMENT OR FORTUNES OF AFRICAN LIBERATION MOVEMENTS. PERHAPS OF SOME SIGNIFICANCE WAS THE UNDERTAKING BY MUSLIM NATIONS TO SEEK SANCTIONS AGAINST ISRAEL UNDER CHAPTER SEVEN OF UN CHARTER, A NEW WRINKLE PUT FORWARD BY LEBANON. ON ECONOMIC SIDE, FACT THAT EVERY PROPOSAL FOR CONCRETE ACTION WAS REFERRED BACK TO GOVERNMENTS, WITH PROMISE THAT SOME MIGHT BE CONSIDERED BY SPECIAL ECONOMIC COMMITTEE OF MUSLIM NATIONS IN MONTHS AHEAD, SIGNALLED THE CONFERENCE'S NOT SURPRISING FAILURE TO ACHIEVE ANY AGREEMENT OR EVEN BEGINNINGS OF CONSENSUS. LOOKING TO FUTURE, BEST HOPE FOR CLOSER ECONOMIC COOPERATION AMONG ISLAMIC NATIONS MAY LIE IN ISLAMIC DEVELOPMENT BANK THAT WILL BE CONSIDERED BY MUSLIM FINANCE MINISTERS IN AUGUST.

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3. ACTIVITY OF DELEGATIONS: MOST ACTIVE DELEGATIONS ACROSS-THE-BOARD WERE THE LIBYANS, SAUDIS, PAKISTANIS AND MALAYSIANS. LIBYA, WITH ITS RELIGIOUS AND POLITICAL MISSIONARY ZEAL, RARELY RELENDED ON ANY POINT AND PRESSED FOR A STRONGER RESOLUTION ON SOUTHERN PHILIPPINES THAN MOST DELEGATIONS HAD A TASTE FOR. WHAT LIBYA COULD NOT ACHIEVE ON THE CONFERENCE FLOOR, ITS REPRESENTATIVES (AL-OBEEDI AND AL-TARIKI) TOOK TO THE PUBLIC IN NUMEROUS MEETINGS WITH THE PRESS; IN THIS RESPECT, THE LIBYAN DELEGATION WAS REMARKABLY OPEN AND MET WITH ANY DELEGATE, NEWSMAN, OR OBSERVER (INCLUDING PHIL MUSLIM DELEGATION SENT BY GOP) WHO SOUGHT CONTACT. PALESTINE LIBERATION ORGANIZATION (PLO) WAS PREDICTABLY ACTIVE, NOT ONLY IN BLOCKING NOMINATION OF JORDAN AS VICE-CHAIRMAN IN INITIAL DAYS OF CONF, BUT ALSO IN FORMULATING RESOLUTIONS ON MIDDLE EAST AND STRONG-ARMING AFRICANS TO SUPPORT PLO LINE. CONFERENCE RESOLU-

TIONS ON MIDDLE EAST, HOWEVER, DO NOT REFLECT THE PLO'S MAXIMUM POSITIONS, ESPECIALLY REGARDING ITS STATUS IN FUTURE POLITICAL NEGOTIATIONS ON MIDDLE EAST SETTLEMENT. AMONG CONSERVATIVE DELEGATIONS, SAUDI ARABIA SOUGHT TO AVOID TROUBLE ON ANY FRONT. SAUDIS WERE JOINED BY KUWAIT, IRAN AND A FEW OTHERS IN OPPOSING OIL COMPENSATION/EXCHANGE SUPPORT FUND AND OTHER ECONOMIC MEASURES, FOR WHICH THEY WOULD HAVE HAD TO FOOT THE BILL. PAKISTAN WAS PROMINENT WITH ITS ANTI-INDIA RESOLUTION ON NUCLEAR SECURITY. PAKS, ALONG WITH MALAYSIANS, ALSO STRENUOUSLY WORKED FOR ECONOMIC PROPOSALS, INCLUDING COMPENSATION FUND AND TECHNICAL COOPERATION MEASURES. ON SOUTHERN PHILIPPINE ISSUE, LIBYANS OF COURSE WERE IN THE VANGUARD OF THOSE SEEKING A STRINGENT RESOLUTION; SOMALIA AND OTHER AFRICAN DELEGATIONS REPORTEDLY SUPPORTED LIBYAN POSITION WHEN IT APPEARED CONF WAS INCLINED TO ACCEPT Milder Indonesian FORMULATION. INDONESIANS PROBABLY CAME AWAY FROM CONF NOT LIKING WHAT THEY SAW AND HEARD: FONMIN MALIK'S CAUTIOUS STAND ON ECONOMIC MATTERS AND HIS STATEMENTS AGAINST AUTONOMY FOR MINORITY GROUPS UPON HIS RETURN TO JAKARTA JUNE 25, NOT TO MENTION HIS ESPOUSAL OF PHILIPPINE GOVT CAUSE, ARE INDICATIONS OF LIKEWISE GOI DISENCHANTMENT WITH K.L. MEETING AND MUSLIM POLITICS IN GENERAL.

4. MALAYSIA'S ISLAMIC DIPLOMACY: LAVISH ARRANGEMENTS FOR CONF WERE ADEQUATE TESTIMONY OF MALAYSIA'S NEW "OPENING" TO THE MUSLIM WORLD. IN THE WORDS OF A MID-LEVEL FOREIGN MINISTRY OFFICIAL, THE GOM'S EFFORT TO "WIN FRIENDS AND INFLUENCE
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PEOPLE" IN THE ISLAMIC WORLD IS ITS GREATEST SINGLE DIPLOMATIC INITIATIVE SINCE INDEPENDENCE, INCLUDING RPT INCLUDING ASEAN. MALAYSIA'S NEW-FOUND MUSLIM DIPLOMACY GENERALLY HAS TWO OBJECTIVES: TO OBTAIN ARAB INVESTMENT AND TRADE; AND TO BOLSTER ITS DOMESTIC POLITICAL POSITION AMONG THE MALAYS WHO CONSTITUTE THE GOVT'S BASE OF SUPPORT. RE DOMESTIC POLITICAL IMPLICATIONS, THE GOM, DOMINATED BY THE UNITED MALAYS NATIONAL ORGANIZATION (UMNO) AND ALSO INCLUDING THE CONSERVATIVE, RELIGIOUS-ORIENTED PAN-MALAY ISLAMIC PARTY (PMIP), FEELS THAT ITS INVOLVEMENT IN INTL MUSLIM DIPLOMACY WILL FURBISH ITS IMAGE AT HOME SUFFICIENTLY TO ENSURE CONTINUED POLITICAL SUPPORT OF THE MALAY POPULATION. ALSO THE GOM HAS FROM TIME TO TIME HAD TO COMBAT ALLEGATIONS FROM THE MUSLIM CONSERVATIVE RIGHT WING AND FROM YOUNG LEFTIST-INCLINED MALAY STUDENTS AS WELL THAT IT IS UN-MUSLIM AND IS DOING VERY LITTLE TO "PROPAGATE THE FAITH" INTERNATIONALLY AND AT HOME. ON THE INTERNATIONAL FRONT, THE JUST-CONCLUDED CONFERENCE, WITH ITS FAILURE TO ACHIEVE ANYTHING OF SUBSTANCE IN THE ECONOMIC REALM, MAY CAUSE THE GOM TO RE-EXAMINE ITS HOPES OF ATTRACTING SUBSTANTIAL ARAB FUNDS FOR INVESTMENT HERE, GENERAL PROMOTION OF ECONOMIC AND TECHNICAL COOPERATION AMONG ISLAMIC COUNTRIES, AND BY MEANS OF INCREASED TRADE.

5. ALSO, K.L. PROMISES TO BECOME A FOCAL POINT FOR ARAB DIPLOMACY IN SOUTHEAST ASIA. IN THIS REGARD, THE PLO'S STATUS HERE HAS BEEN RAISED IN LIBYA, IRAQ AND PERHAPS KUWAIT AND OTHERS WILL USE THEIR K.L. DIPLOMATIC MISSIONS#EWTZASLDG OF OPERATION FOR THEIR ASIAN INTERESTS, SOME OF WHICH ARE BOUND TO BE TROUBLESOME FOR THE NATIONS CONCERNED.

6. DEVELOPMENTS ON MATTERS OF REGIONAL INTEREST SUCH AS SOUTHERN PHILIPPINES AND SOUTHERN THAILAND WILL BE REPORTED IN SEPTELS. COPIES OF AVAILABLE DOCUMENTS WILL BE SENT DEPT FOR REPRODUCTION AND DISSEMINATION AS DESIRED.
UNDERHILL

NOTE BY OCT: # AS RECEIVED.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: MOSLEMS, AGREEMENTS, ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE, FOREIGN MINISTERS MEETINGS, RELIGIOUS DISCRIMINATION, INTERGOVERNMENTAL COOPERATION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 27 JUN 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: BoyleJA
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974KUALA03050
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740170-1129
From: KUALA LUMPUR
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t1974069/aaaaahel.tel
Line Count: 237
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 5
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: KUALA LUMPUR 3019, 6/26/74
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: BoyleJA
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 29 APR 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <29 APR 2002 by cunninfx>; APPROVED <24 MAR 2003 by BoyleJA>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: ISLAMIC FOREIGN MINISTERS' CONFERENCE WRAP-UP
TAGS: PFOR, EGEN, MY, XD, XF, XI, XL
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005